

STR Staff Notes on Quarterly Reports for Indian Language Preservation Projects

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Crow

Project Name: *Apsaalooke Ammalaaau*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- In the 1st quarter report, one project component from the Agreement was left out. It is “(e) Develop an Apsaalooke language website”. The project contact reported at the time that this component is still part of the project and that it was 50% complete. But there again is no mention of any language website as a component of the project in the 2nd quarterly report. (In Sec.9 (p.3) there is brief reference to spending \$2,950 on “website and recording of storytelling circles”.)
 - The STEDC Director reports that the Apsaalooke language website will indeed be implemented and that it will house the district mapping of clans and their fluency, survey results, and at the very least the edited videos of the district storytelling recordings.
 - The Crow project staff are requested to explicitly report the status of this project component in the next quarterly report.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- Activity (a) shows good progress between quarters (going from 0% to 75%) with good supporting narrative.
- Activity (b) states progress between quarters (going from 0% to 15%) with good supporting narrative.
- Activity (c) states great progress between quarters (going from 20% to 98%). The last story-telling circle was conducted on April 2; all of circles been completed. The circles were videoed and now staff is now in the process of editing the footage.
- Activity (d) is the “technological application for learning conversational Crow”. The first quarter report stated this component was 50% complete—but this quarter’s report now has it 20% finished. The explanation is that last December the staff had several conversations with the mobile app vendor and sent their finance office a check for 50% of the vendor’s contract. But the finance department has yet to cut that check for the vendor. Last week they reported that they were closer to getting the situation resolved.
- Activity (e): same point as above: the development of an Apsaalooke language website is not mentioned in the report.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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Blackfeet

Project Name: *Blackfeet Indian Language Preservation Program*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- *Component (a) Blackfeet Community College:* This component shows steady progress (going from 20% complete last quarter to 45% this quarter). It is supported by strong narrative and documentation.
- *Component (b) Browning Public School District #9:* This component is the slowest of the four (going from 5% to 10%). Staff explains that the slow pace results from “not recognizing that teachers are teaching all day and have limited evening time to do the book translation portion of the project.” They will do so in June. This will result in a modification of their timeline with the third language workshop’s “pre-orientation” (??) occurring in August.
- *Component (c) Blackfeet Language Advisory Board:* This component also shows steady progress (going from 20% complete last quarter to 50% this quarter). It is supported by strong narrative and documentation.
- *Component (d) Kanaitapiwa Center:* This component appears to be on pace given that much of the activity is slated for summer.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- The project has spent less than one seventh of its \$250,000 grant, but many funds are already encumbered for their intended purposes

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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Fort Belknap

Project Name: *Fort Belknap Indian Community Language Preservation Program*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far*, in that all the original project components within the original Scope of Work are being pursued, albeit in various stages of progress.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed on schedule—but with considerable work remaining in the five months remaining.*
- *Component (a) Annotated bibliography:* This component shows reasonable progress (going from 5% complete last quarter to 25% this quarter) and supporting narrative.
 - Note: The original Agreement aimed for “a total of 320 works for review, analysis, and summary” to comprise this bibliography. The current report does not indicate how many such items are currently “in the pipeline”. In order to be able to assess if the pilot is on a viable pace given its remaining time frame, the number of works produced should be specified in each remaining quarterly report.
- *Component (b) Class 7 Standards revision:* This component states reasonable progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 25% this quarter). Staff have thus far been reviewing the “Montana Standards for World Languages”, an 11-page guide produced by OPI.
- *Component (c) Talking Dictionary:* This component states reasonable progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 25% this quarter).
 - Note: STEDC staff states that the Gros Ventres intend to have elders/speakers take turns saying aloud 11,000 words. The current report does not indicate how many words have been recorded thus far. In order to be able to assess if the pilot is on a viable pace given its remaining time frame, the number of words captured should be specified in each remaining quarterly report.
 - Note: In a similar vein, it would be interesting (if not essential) to know the pilot’s baseline goal in its plan to “record elders in outlying communities”. How many individuals from how many segments/communities of the populace need to be recorded in order to arrive at a linguistically-authentic, academically-sound sampling? How many individuals have been recorded thus far for the talking dictionary and the sign language components?
- *Component (d) Sign Language:* This component shows progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 25% this quarter).
- *Component (e) DVDs of Community Classes:* This component states reasonable progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 25% this quarter).

- Note: The pilot's documents state that these DVDs are slated for "distribution to homes for review"—but do not indicate how widespread that distribution will be. In order to be able to assess if the pilot will be on target near the end of this component—a target needs to be set.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *is assessed in compliance thus far.*

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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Fort Peck

Project Name: *Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Language Preservation Project*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *The project is in compliance thus far.*
- *Component (a) Nakona and Dakota language booklet.*
- *Component (b) Nakona and Dakota Vocabulary/Visual Dictionaries:* Note: The actual number of dictionaries to be produced is yet to be decided.
- *Component (c) Nakona and Dakota school curricula:*
- *Component (d) Nakona and Dakota histories.*
- Note: Another important feature of the Fort Peck pilot will be Language Immersion Camps. The intent is to have the camps enriched with the tools and products cited above. If those tools and products are not complete by the time the camps begin, then existing curricula will be used.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- *Component (a) Nakona and Dakota language booklet:* This component shows strong progress (going from 10% complete last quarter to 50% this quarter). The supporting narrative is more detailed than in the preceding report.
- *Component (b) Nakona and Dakota Vocabulary Dictionaries:* This component shows some progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 15% this quarter) and supporting narrative.
 - Action items have been reported here in the future tense: please note that this section should include only those activities "completed to date".
- *Component (c) Nakona and Dakota school curricula:* This component shows nominal progress (going from 10% complete last quarter to 15% this quarter) and some narrative.
 - Action items have all been reported here in the future tense: please note that this section should include only those activities "completed to date". STRC and STEDC staff will discuss this further.
- *Component (d) Nakona and Dakota histories:* This component states some progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 15% this quarter) and supporting narrative.
 - Action items have been reported here in the future tense: please note that this section should include only those activities "completed to date". STRC and STEDC staff will discuss this further.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *The project is assessed in compliance thus far, with the following caveats.*
 - The overall project has spent only about one-seventh of its total grant.
 - Project staff did not provide STRIC staff vouchers as requested.

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

- *The pace of activity in this first two quarters is cause for concern.* As noted above, many of the tasks are stated in the future tense (“will”). The Agreement signed in October of 2013 projected activity in each of the four components in every month from October onward. However, the two quarterlies provided since that time indicate no activity for most of the components in most of the months since the Agreement was signed.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Project Name: *SPCC Intensive Salish Language Program*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Kootenai and Salish components are assessed in compliance thus far* in that they are still focused on the original tasks agreed to.
- Some confusion is created by having one quarterly report for the Kootenai and Salish projects together—and then another one for them separately. The two do not format and word their activities in entirely congruent manner. STRC staff found it most useful to view the two projects separately.
- Kootenai component: To the extent that the various sections of a single report can use a parallel structure that identifies activities in the same way, then the easier it is to follow.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Kootenai and Salish components are assessed in compliance thus far.*
- STR Staff Observation: Hopefully the following outline accurately captures the dual arrangement of work for the Kootenai project component:
- **“Kootenai Language curriculum Project”**
 - Kootenai (1) *Curriculum Guide*: The report states steady progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 50% this quarter). The narrative which accompanies it does not very clearly itemize activities done and yet to be done in a way which makes that “50%” understandable. This might be a difficult undertaking given the 40~ draft lessons involved—but hopefully it will be outlined with more clarity in future quarterly reports.
 - Kootenai (1a) Curriculum modification:
 - Kootenai (1b) Fluent speaker CD recordings:
 - Kootenai (1c) Storybook:
 - Kootenai (2) *Language survey*: The report states steady progress (going from 0% complete last quarter to 75% this quarter). The narrative states that the survey was developed in the first quarter and has been actively disseminated for the last three months.
- **“Intensive Salish Language Program”**
 - STR Staff Observation: Each of the following activities are clearly supported with narrative and other documentation.
 - Salish (1) *Intensive Salish Instruction for Adult Learners*: The report shows steady progress (going from 10% complete last quarter to 35% this quarter).
 - Salish (2) *Language Commission*: The report shows steady progress (going from 10% complete last quarter to 35% this quarter).

- Salish (3) *Class 7 Certification*: The report shows steady progress (going from 10% complete last quarter to 40% this quarter).

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *The Kootenai component is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- **“Kootenai Language curriculum Project”**
 - About one-fourth of the grant of \$125,000 has been expensed to date. Narrative states that “budget expenditures” and that “the majority of the costs will be incurred in the third and fourth quarter of the project.”
 - Project staff did not provide STRIC staff vouchers as requested.
- **“Intensive Salish Language Program”**
 - STR Staff Observation: *The Salish component is assessed in compliance thus far*
 - \$33,000 of the \$125,000 for the Salish component, or about one-fourth, has been expended.

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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Northern Cheyenne

Project Name: *Northern Cheyenne Language Preservation Project Pilot Program*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- STR Staff Observation: The purposes and pieces of this project are much more clearly expressed and reported in this quarterly report. The intended project as described in the original application, and the Scope of Work as depicted in the first quarterly report were worded quite differently, but the seven (a→e) components expressed and reported in the current quarterly appear to faithfully capture the original project purposes.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- The new narrative attached to the Implementation is very informative and indicated that a number of the anticipated 23 activities are already complete.
- It will also help if project staff marks the boxes to the right of that narrative; none of them are checked in the current report.
- All of the following components have shown substantial increases from the stated "1% complete" in the first quarter report:
 - *Component (a)* Dictionary App: 40% complete.
 - *Component (b)*: Plant Terminology App: 90% complete
 - *Component (c)*: Two-week Immersion Camp: 50% complete
 - *Component (d)*: Class 7 Certification: 45% complete
 - *Component (e)*: Video Recording (of Camp): 15% complete
 - *Component (f)*: Video Recording of Language Class (at Camp): 25% complete
 - *Component (g)*: Multi-Level Language Curriculum: 20%

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- There is useful supportive narrative in Section 9 Use of Funds.
- Cautionary note: The project has spent only about one-seventh (\$36,252) of its total grant (\$250,000).

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation: This project is on solid footing—the efforts of project staff and the Director of the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission have paid off.

Little Shell

Project Name: *Preserving La Lawng Michif, Chippewa, and Cree Languages in Montana: The Little Shell's Traditional Historic Languages*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.* The purposes described in this report following precisely from the original documents.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- **STR Staff Observation:** *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- The multiple project components are, on average, 50.4 % completed.
- The narrative for the Project Implementation Schedule is detailed.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
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- Project staff did not provide STRIC staff vouchers as requested.
- There is useful supportive narrative in Section 9 use of Funds.
- The project has spent only about one-sixth (\$42,122) of its total grant (\$250,000). The narrative explains how and when the remaining expenditures will take place.

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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Rocky Boys

Project Name: *Chippewa Cree Tribe Language Preservation Pilot Program*

Adherence to Project Purposes:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far.*
- (b) *Phase 2:* Develop digital dictionary, application and interactive website: More information has helped depict the purpose of this component: The staff have been updating an existing dictionary of about 6,000 words. The written aspect of the dictionary may be done in the final week of April, then speakers will be recorded saying each word. Additionally, the interactive website will have a series of "lessons" that can be selected to help teach learners words by category like kinship, seasons, plants, etc. These lessons will have current photos from the community that depicts the Cree word.

Adherence to Time Frame:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far **
- * STR Staff Observation: Most of the narrative in the Sec. 11 Project Implementation Schedule was copied and pasted from the first quarterly report. Although this is to be expected for activities that might not have seen noteworthy movement, others have seen action and these narrative boxes are an opportunity to explain any challenges and accomplishments of the preceding three months.
- * STR Staff Observation: Unlike most of the other MILP3 pilots which largely have components that can be implemented concurrently, the CCT Language Preservation Pilot has three distinct and sequential phases. The third phase (that of language learning opportunities for at least 16 individuals) is to be launched on 09/15/14 (page 15 of Application) but it cannot be conducted until the first two are phases are complete. Several activities are behind schedule however (and this may be attributable to the compressed timeframe of MILP3 as a whole). However, the STEDC Director has worked with pilot staff on a new timeline and feels assured that the components of Phase Three will be implement on time and that there will be feedback on that phase by 09/15/14.
- (a) *Phase 1:* Research and Record Cree Language: This component states steady progress (going from 25% complete last quarter to 80% this quarter). Staff have conducted 322 surveys thus far, with a their target being 600 (which is 10% of membership).
- (b) *Phase 2:* Develop digital dictionary, application and interactive website: This component states progress (from 5% complete to 25% this quarter).
- (c) *Phase 3:* Pilot learning opportunities for at least 16 individuals: Staff did not state a "% complete" in this report, but they have begun to identify potential participants / recipients.

Adherence to Funding Parameters:

- STR Staff Observation: *Project is assessed in compliance thus far, though the reporting on funds is not transparent.**
- * STR Staff Observation: No budget narrative was provided. Staff are kindly requested to enter some in the next quarterly report.
- * STR Staff Observation: The “Amount expensed” column was left blank except for the subtotals. Without itemization within each block subtotaled, and without vouchers being attached to this report, it is difficult to breakout what the money was spent on.

Other STR Staff Notes/Observation:

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